

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 11, 1971

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director *N.W. Green*

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for January 1971

Refugee School Program

Construction of the CD project for 12 new classrooms at the Long Tieng Neua Groupe Scolaire has been started and half of the lumber needed for the building has been moved to the site from 272

Information attached to Mr. Woodson's report shows a total of 32,369 refugee children enrolled in school. This is an increase of 2,000 over the figure compiled nearer the beginning of this school year and represents about 53 percent of the refugees of school age.

Five arithmetic books were sent to the printers this month for reprinting for use in refugee schools

Community Education

The Primary School Inspectors' Conference in Champasak was one of the main features of a busy month for the division. These annual conferences become both broader and deeper in their professional content each year. This year, committee reports and work sessions focussed on the sixth grade CEP examinations and the elementary curriculum for history. Further comments on the conference are included in the attached Community Education reports. A complete report on the conference is now being prepared.

Teacher Training

Further professional achievement in Lao education was demonstrated at

the second annual Seminar on the Problems of Teaching English in Laos, which was held in Vientiane, January 5-7. Mrs. Pinkham directed the seminar with support from numerous agencies including the SEAMEO Regional English Language Center in Singapore. Lao and foreign teachers of English in various types of secondary schools participated. Twenty students from the English Section at ESP also attended.

IYS quarterly reports covering the first trimester of this school year made good reading, reflecting a good sense of accomplishment and direction within the present group.

Construction of the demonstration school and science laboratories at the Pakse ENI is nearing completion. At Dong Dok, the contractor has started work on two new dormitories and twelve additional classrooms. A contract has been signed and work will be started soon on the three-story multipurpose building for Luang Prabang ENI.

Dick Costantio reports successful vegetable gardening and fish growing projects at the Pakse ENI. The students produced enough to pay expenses and still make some money for school projects by selling produce in the Pakse market.

An audit of the Teacher Training project has been satisfactorily concluded.

Secondary Education

We welcomed the visit this month of Mr. Robert Cushing, Vice-Chairman of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, and Dr. Teruo Ibara, Director of Foreign Contracts. The two men visited all Fa Ngum sites and had many meetings with USAID and Lao officials. Main attention was given to staffing requirements related to the development of the second cycle in Fa Ngum Schools and to the proposed curriculum center for Secondary Education. In response to the Ministry's request, some team members whose terms of service are ending will be replaced by University curriculum specialists. Two returning team members who have been stationed

in Vientiane will be assigned to field schools.

Good progress has been made on construction plans for Fa Ngum Schools:

Phone Hong: The boundary survey has been completed and OICC is in position to begin design work for the final phase of construction on March 1. Construction work is scheduled to start June 15. Meanwhile, work has started on two teachers' cottages and arrangements have been made to install the new generators and pump.

Savannakhet: The construction work has been advertised and the contract is expected to be awarded March 1, with work started March 15. Some badly made school furniture was rejected and two local private contractors are now remaking the furniture according to specifications. We are determining requirements for materials to extend the EDL power line to the school site and will prepare a funding document for these materials as soon as possible.

Luang Prabang: The private property at this school site is still not in the hands of the government because of lack of agreement on a just compensation for the land owners and authorization of funds to pay them. However, we are proceeding with plans for the school construction, with a target date of April 7 for awarding the contract if land clearance is obtained. The topographical survey of the school site has been completed. Funding documents for the school construction, including materials required for linking with city power, are being circulated for approval. Consideration is also being given to a proposal to construct a Gabion dam to create a source of water for the school.

Through an arrangement with the Continuation Studies Division of the University of Hawaii, Dr. Collins is teaching a three-credit course in Educational Psychology to five Fa Ngum faculty members. It is possible that such course offerings could be opened next fall to the community at large.

An audit of the University of Hawaii Contract has been satisfactorily concluded.

General

Minister Leuam and other education officials attended the Sixth Annual SEAMEC Conference in Saigon, January 11-14. At the conference, the Minister proposed the establishment of a SEAMEO Regional Center for Oriental Studies, in Vientiane. The proposal is to be studied by SEAMES and a report is to be made to the Council.

The Seventh SEAMEC Conference will be held in Vientiane January 24-28, 1972.

Two more participants returned from the U. S. with bachelors degrees this month. They are Miss Manipahn Na Champassak, who was at Southern Illinois, and Mr. Noupit Sengsourigna, who was at the University of Georgia. Both will be assigned to Fa Ngum Schools for the present, but Mr. Noupit is expected to be at ESP next school year.

Other Donors

The French government will provide six training programs for Ministry of Education officials during the 1971-72 school year - two for technical schools and four for the Royal Institute of Law and Administration.

A UNESCO expert in functional literacy has been assigned to Laos. He is now working on broad plans for an adult education program in the Southern Vientiane Plain beginning in the area of Hat Dok Keo. Although associated with the Department of Primary and Adult Education, his interests, in addition to literacy, cover a wide range of rural activities including especially agriculture.

The Canadian government has expressed a willingness to provide about 24 tons of paper for use in reprinting elementary textbooks. This matter is being pursued with the Ministry.

The American Women's Club of Laos donated \$3,000 to the Fa Ngum Schools for scholarships and program assistance. This is the fourth year the ladies have supported this project. They also donated some sports equipment which was gratefully received by refugee schools in the Pakse area.

Five local sawmills presented lumber valued at K 100,000 to the ESP for the purpose of making benches for the auditorium.

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Distribution

OD/DD-2	PSD
AD/M	PWD
AD/FIN	OICC
AD/FO	AGR
AD/PE	MD
AD/RA	PHD
ESD-2	Each AC
EAD	EDU-12
SMB-2	Laos Desk
IVS	EA/TECH/EDU
IVS/EDU	
C&R-2	